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DECORATIVE NOTES.

REMEMBER that simplicity and cleanliness are always beautiful. If carpets are used instead of rugs, have them made like rugs. If they are properly made and pressed they will lie flat. If a bare floor seems comfortless, have the carpet come nearly to the margin of the room, but leave the corners so that they may be wiped up instead of being swept. Do not cover the windows with layer upon layer of curtains. Light means cheerful spirits and good health, and without these two essentials beauty is impossible.

THERE is a very pretty arrangement for rare curios. It is a small cabinet made entirely of glass, the framework being of the slightest construction possible consistent with security. Within the dainty little receptacle clearly visible through the clear plate glass are antique gems, ancient watches and other rare and precious articles, which it would be unsafe to leave unprotected on the table; but which, in this way, can be seen and admired by every one.

WITH the craze for antique furniture, candlesticks have come into vogue, and they are distributed everywhere in the rooms. They are not used for illumination, but simply for decoration, and the pleasing effect obtained from the light that they give. A novel candlestick is a huge basket of wax flowers. There are roses, lilies, orchids, violets and chrysanthemums grouped together with ferns and green leaves, but each flower is really a small candle, designed to burn at least half an hour. When the bunch of flowers are lighted the effect is magical.

THIS season linens, damasks and doilies will be monogrammed in delicate tints, running vines in colors, and made elaborate by insertions and lace.

IN THE selection of wall papers, the cheapest often produces the best effects. For small dining-rooms, hall bedrooms, or even living apartments in town or out, small figures on tinted backgrounds make an admi-

nable scheme. Tones of yellow set off by a dash of gilt is always charming in appearance. For this a frieze of darker tones, strong in design, makes an acceptable wall covering. Cashmere colors, fruit designs and scrolling patterns in delicate browns are most desirable for a breakfast-room. Papers at a few cents a roll will furnish exceedingly well, if rightly selected.

MANY people have a very misty idea of the meaning of the term conventional as applied to decoration. A natural flower, for instance a rose,

taken as the theme of ceiling or wall decoration is unsuitable. It does not always fit in where it is needed; it is likely to be untrue in drawing and color, and its recurrence in a continuous design is always wearisome. But the rose with its leaf, its seed vessel, its inner petals set round a heart of tawny gold, may form the motive for a design when its various forms are modified to suit the requirements of true decoration, not reproducing, but suggesting their originals and fitting themselves to the needs of borders, masses, and arabesques, in which we may enjoy the beauty of line, curve, and color without the thought of the actual rose, which, nine times out of ten, would be crude and faulty in execution, and whose frequent repetitions would give a spotty effect to the entire design.

WE HAVE been asked how people without taste or

originality can furnish a room. Study nature. Observe the soft greys, tender greens, and the sparing bits of red on a moss-covered stone in the meadow, or the wonderful tints in a lichen-covered rail fence. See the rich gradations of browns in autumn, how all tones harmonize! Cultivate the eye until a crudity in color shall be as painful as a coarse word.

FOR a permanent paste for paperhangers, dissolve one ounce of alum in one quart of warm soft water. When cold add flour to make it about the consistency of cream, then add half a thimble of rosin and half an ounce of sugar of lead. The above is the preparation for a bucket of paste.



THE EASTER LILY. SHOWING VARIOUS DECORATIVE MOTIVES.